

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 EUR-12 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /094 W

-----211855Z 025719 /40

R 211537Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6124

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 1908

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XW TS

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN NORTHEAST AFRICA

REF: STATE 034960

1. DRAWING ON PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH GOT OFFICIALS
AND POST POSITIONS GOT HAS TAKEN REGARDING NORTHEAST AFRICA,
FOLLOWING SUMMARY IS SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL.

2. TUNISIANS HAVE NOT TAKEN LEAD IN SPEAKING ON DEVELOPMENTS
IN NORTHEAST AFRICA NOR IN COMMENTING ON VIEWS OF OTHER
AFRICAN AND ARAB STATES ON ETHIOPIA-SUDAN-SOMALIA RELATIONS.

2. ETHIOPIA BROKE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TUNISIA
IN 1975, FOLLOWING GOT'S EXPRESSION OF "NON OBJECTION" TO
SEATING OF ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT OBSERVER AT OAU SUMMIT
IN KAMPALA. INITIAL TUNISIAN SUPPORT WAS EXPRESSED INDIRECTLY
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AND OFF-HANDEDLY BY PRESIDENG BOURGUIBA IN INTERVIEW GRANTED
AUSTRIAN NEWSPAPER "KURIER" IN FEBRUARY 1975 AND "NON
OBJECTION" TO ELF OBSEROER STATUS AT KAMPALA WAS REPORTEDLY
INVLUENCED BY THESE EARLIER VIEWS OF BOURGUIBA (SEE
TUNIS A-18, FEBRUARY 19, 1975, AND TUNIS A-79, AUGUST 5,
1976). TUNISIA IS NOT AN ACTIVE SUPPORTER OF ERITREAN
CLAIMS, BUT DOES PERMIT AN ELF OFFICE TO OPERATE IN TUNISIA.

THIS OFFICE IS NOT NOTICEABLY ACTIVE. TUNISIA HAS GIVEN NO INDICATION THAT IT HAS OTHERWISE LESSENED ITS SUPPORT FOR TRADITIONAL OAU POSITION ON AFRICA TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

3. WE ARE UNAWARE THAT TUNISIAN VIEWS REGARDING ERITREAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT HAVE BEEN CHANGED BY EVENTS CITED IN REFTTEL, AND NO OFFICIAL STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE. GOT RELATIONS WITH SUDAN HAVE PERHAPS WARMED SOMEWHAT IN WAKE OF SUDAN'S TROUBLES WITH LIBYA AND SUDAN'S CLOSER TIES WITH EGYPT. TUNISIAN RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA ARE EVIDENTLY "CORRECT", BUT THE TWO COUNTRIES DO NOT EXCHANGE DIPLOMATS. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA ARE STILL BROKEN.

4. TO EXTENT THAT EMBASSY IS AWARE, GOT APPEARS TO VIEW DIFFERENCES IN NORTHEAST AFRICA IN REGIONAL CONTEXT. EXISTENCE OF REPUTED MOSLEM MAJORITY IN ERITREA MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY TUNISIAN SYMPATHY FOR ERITREAN CAUSE.

5. EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE GOT HAS TAKEN POSITION ON POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF OAU HEADQUARTERS OUT OF ADDIS ABABA, AND WE DO NOT EXPECT TUNISIA WILL TAKE LEAD ON THIS ISSUE.

6. GOT HAS MADE NO EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY FOR SOMALI AMBITIONS IN DJIBOUTI OR SOMALI-INHABITED PORTIONS OF ETHIOPIA.

7. GOT HAS MADE NO COMMENT, OFFICIALLY OR INFORMALLY, REGARDING U.S. RELATIONSHIPS WITH ETHIOPIA. SOME TUNISIAN CONFIDENTIAL

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OFFICIALS AT WORKING LEVEL HAVE INDICATED TO US THAT THEY THOUGHT GOT HAD ALREADY BECOME TOO INVOLVED IN MATTER NOT OF THEIR CONCERN BY VOICING SUPPORT FOR ELF AND GIVING PERMISSION FOR IT TO OPEN OFFICE IN TUNIS. ON BASIS OF GENERAL TUNISIAN APPROACH TO SUCH ISSUES, EMBASSY EXPECTS THAT GOT WOULD LIKE TO "SIT THIS ONE OUT." TUNISIA HAS GIVEN NO INDICATION THAT IT HAS OTHERWISE ALTERED ITS AGREEMENT WITH TRADITIONAL OAU VIEWS REGARDING AFRICAN TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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TAGS: PFOR, XW, TS, SU, SO, ET
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